



ELECTION NEWS

A special informational bulletin
on the implementation of
Michigan election law.

Michigan Department of State - Terri Lynn Land, Secretary of State

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Polling Place Accessibility Grant Program Reopened

*New application period commences on
August 6, 2007 and ends on October 8, 2007*

Any and all buildings used for polling place locations must meet the accessibility requirements set forth under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If a building used for a polling place location cannot be made accessible as stipulated under the ADA, the polling place must be moved to a building which meets the ADA accessibility requirements.

In April 2005, the Department introduced the Polling Place Accessibility Improvement Program – a grant program which Michigan's cities and townships can use to recover the costs they incur in making their polling places ADA compliant. The grant program is funded through the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (Title II, Section 261; CFDA 93.617). The Department of State's Bureau of Elections is responsible for overseeing the grant process.

As there are still a number of jurisdictions that could benefit from the grant program and grant funds remain available, a new grant program application window is being opened on August 6, 2007. The new application window will extend through October 8, 2007.

Complete information on the polling place accessibility grant program and the grant application form can be found on the Department of State's website <www.michigan.gov/sos>. Click on "Elections in Michigan." On the Elections in Michigan page, click on "Information for Election Administrators" and scroll down to "HAVA Compliance Materials."

City and township clerks who have any questions regarding the grant program or the status of a previously submitted grant application are encouraged to contact Michigan Department of State's Bureau of Elections.

Implementation of Photo ID Requirement at November 6, 2007 Election Planned

The Michigan Supreme Court ruled on July 18, 2007 that a 1996 law which requires voters to present photo identification in the polls when applying for a ballot is constitutional and enforceable. (See MCL 168.523)

As a result of the court's ruling, the Bureau of Elections is currently in the process of developing a comprehensive informational program to assist clerks with the implementation of the photo ID requirement. The release of the informational materials in time for the implementation of the photo ID requirement at the upcoming November 6, 2007 election is planned.

To ensure the orderly introduction of the photo ID requirement, the informational materials will include full written instructions, a complete list of the types of photo identification voters can use to satisfy the requirement, a question and answer sheet for clerks, an informational handout that can be copied for distribution to voters, and an example of the affidavit needed for voters who do not have an acceptable form of photo identification. Assistance with the development of the materials will be sought from members of Michigan's election community.

In addition to the above, training opportunities on the photo ID requirement will be extended to Michigan's 83 county clerks, 1,517 city and township clerks and 259 village clerks. As the photo ID requirement must be implemented in every precinct in the state, it is critically important that the county and local clerks responsible for training Michigan's 30,000+ election inspectors have the tools and information they need to effectively communicate the new requirement to the front line workers who manage the polls.

Additional information on the arrangements being made for the introduction of the photo identification requirement will be provided as plans progress. Please feel free to contact the Michigan Department of State's Bureau of Elections if you have any immediate questions.

Election Resources Available on Department's Website

A wide variety of election related information and materials can be accessed through the Department's website <www.michigan.gov/sos>. To locate, click on "Elections in Michigan"; on the Elections in Michigan page, click on "Information for Election Administrators." The information and materials currently available on the website include the following:

- Michigan election law.
- 2007 city election date calendar.
- September 11, 2007 village election calendar.
- Voter information poster for September 11, 2007 election.
- November 6, 2007 election date calendar.

- August 5, 2008 primary and November 4, 2008 general election date calendar.
- Complete Election News archive.

Have a Question or Need Assistance?

If you have a question or need assistance with your election related duties, please do not hesitate to contact the Michigan Department of State's Bureau of Elections. We will be happy to assist in any way possible!

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